CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for entering a file selection, said method comprising:

(a)   simultaneously displaying a first region, a second region and a third region;

(b)   displaying on the first region a list of categories of files;

5   (c)   inputting a first selection of one of the categories displayed in step (b), so as to identify a selected category;

(d)   in response to said first selection, displaying on the second region a list of the files in the selected category;

(e)   inputting a second selection of one of the files displayed on the second

10   region, so as to identify a selected file; and

(f)   in response to said second selection, displaying on the third region a name for the selected file.

2.   A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of inputting a third selection from a group of types of categories, so as to obtain a selected type, and wherein the categories displayed in step (b) are all of the selected type.

3.   A method according to Claim 2, wherein the selected type of category can be changed plural times, and wherein each time a different type of category is selected the displayed list of categories changes accordingly.

4.   A method according to Claim 2, wherein the selected type is a genre type and the categories displayed in step (b) are names of different genres.

5.   A method according to Claim 2, wherein the selected type is an artist type and the categories displayed in step (b) are names of different artists.

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6.   A method according to Claim 2, wherein the selected type is an album type and the categories displayed in step (b) are names of different albums.

7.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the first selection is made by highlighting and then selecting the selected category.

8.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the selected category can be changed plural times, and wherein each time a different category is selected the list of files displayed in step (d) changes accordingly.

9.   A method according to Claim 1, wherein the second selection is made by highlighting and then selecting the selected file.

10.   A method according to Claim 1, further comprising steps of:

(g)   inputting at least one additional selection of an file, so as to obtain an additionally selected file; and

(h)   in response to each said additional file selection, adding a name for the additionally selected file to a list displayed in said third region.

11.   A method according to Claim 10, further comprising a step of inputting a play instruction, and wherein in response to the play instruction, all files listed in the third region are played.

12.   A method according to Claim 1, further comprising steps of:

(g)   displaying a menu of options;

(h)   inputting a selection of one of the options, so as to obtain a selected option; and

(i)   populating the first region, the second region and the third region based on the selected option.

13. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the selected option is to play files, and wherein in step (i) the first region and the second region are populated with information pertaining to stored files.

14. A method according to Claim 12, wherein the selected option is to purchase files, and wherein in step (i) the first region and the second region are populated with information pertaining to files that are available for purchase.

15. A method according to Claim 14, wherein at least some of the information pertaining to files that are available for purchase is obtained from a remote node via a communications network.

16. A method according to Claim 15, wherein the communications network comprises an Internet.

17. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of displaying a plurality of soft buttons, each said soft button for selecting a function.

18. A method according to Claim 17, further comprising a step of inputting a third selection from a group of types of categories, so as to obtain a selected type, and wherein the functions associated with each soft button depend upon the selected type.

19. A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a step of inputting a selection of one of the first region, the second region and the third region, so as to obtain a selected region, and wherein selections can only be made in the selected region.

20. An apparatus for entering a file selection, said apparatus comprising:

(a) means for simultaneously displaying a first region, a second region and a third region;

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(b)   means for displaying on the first region a list of categories of files;

5   (c)   means for inputting a first selection of one of the categories displayed in step (b), so as to identify a selected category;

(d)   means for, in response to said first selection, displaying on the second region a list of the files in the selected category;

(e)   means for inputting a second selection of one of the files displayed on

10   the second region, so as to identify a selected file; and

(f)   means for, in response to said second selection, displaying on the third region a name for the selected file.

21.   An apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising means for inputting a third selection from a group of types of categories, so as to obtain a selected type, and wherein the categories displayed in step (b) are all of the selected type.

22.   An apparatus according to Claim 21, wherein the selected type of category can be changed plural times, and wherein each time a different type of category is selected the displayed list of categories changes accordingly.